

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for configurably loading a data object comprising a plurality of hierarchically related entities and information specifying the hierarchical relationship of the entities, comprising the steps of:

for each level of the hierarchy, defining a target location for storing entities of that level and a target location for storing inheritance information for entities of that level;

~~Receiving~~receiving as input the hierarchically related entities and the information specifying their hierarchical relationship;

~~For~~for each entity, determining its hierarchical level from the information, and generating inheritance information for that entity; and

~~Storing~~storing the entity and its inheritance information in their respective target locations.

2. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein ones of the entities have attributes, each attribute having a value and a first name, further comprising the steps of:

~~For~~for a hierarchical level, defining a target location for storing attributes associated with each entity of that level, and defining a second name in the target location for each first attribute name;

~~Receiving~~receiving as input the hierarchically related entities and their associated attributes;

~~For~~for each entity having an attribute, mapping the first name of the attribute to the second name of the attribute; and

~~Storing~~storing the attribute in its target location under its second name.

3. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the target locations for entities of each hierarchical level further comprise one of an index class, an auxiliary index class, a table, and a part.

4. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the target location for inheritance information further comprises one of an index class, an auxiliary index class, a table and a part.

5. (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the target location for an attribute further comprises one of an index class, an auxiliary index class, a table and a part.

6. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of assigning an identifier to each entity.

7. (original): The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of storing the inheritance information of each entity with the identifier of that entity in its target location.

8. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the inheritance information of an entity is stored in the same target location as the entity itself.

9. (original): The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of assigning an identifier to each entity.

10. (original): The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of storing each attribute of an entity with the identifier of that entity in the attribute target location.

11. (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the attribute information of an entity is stored in the same target location as the entity itself.

12. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the inheritance information further comprises one or more of a parent entity identifier, a child entity identifier, a sibling identifier, and an auxiliary index class row identifier.

13. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the data object further comprises an outline defining the order and structure of its entities.

14. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the relationship information further comprises container labels.

15. (original): The method of claim 13, wherein the relationship information further comprises the degree of indentation of an entity in the outline, all entities of a same hierarchical level having a same degree of indentation.

16. (currently amended): A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for configurably loading a data object comprising a plurality of hierarchically related entities and information specifying the hierarchical relationship of the entities, comprising the steps of:

for each level of the hierarchy, defining a target location for storing entities of that level and a target location for storing inheritance information for entities of that level;

~~Receiving~~receiving as input the hierarchically related entities and the information specifying their hierarchical relationship;

~~For~~for each entity, determining its hierarchical level from the information, and generating inheritance information for that entity; and

~~Storing~~storing the entity and its inheritance information in their respective target locations.

17. (currently amended): The method of claim 16, wherein ones of the entities have attributes, each attribute having a value and a first name, further comprising the steps of:

~~For~~for hierarchical level, defining a target location for storing attributes associated with each entity of that level, and defining a second name in the target location for each first attribute name;

~~Receiving~~receiving as input the hierarchically related entities and their associated attributes;

~~For~~for each entity having an attribute, mapping the first name of the attribute to the second name of the attribute; and

~~Storing~~storing the attribute in its target location under its second name.

18. (original): The method of claim 16, wherein the target locations for entities of each hierarchical level further comprise one of an index class, an auxiliary index class, a table, and a part.

19. (original): The method of claim 16, wherein the target location for inheritance information further comprises one of an index class, an auxiliary index class, a table and a part.

20. (original): The method of claim 17, wherein the target location for an attribute further comprises one of an index class, an auxiliary index class, a table and a part.

21. (original): The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of assigning an identifier to each entity.

22. (original): The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of storing the inheritance information of each entity with the identifier of that entity in its target location.

23. (original): The method of claim 16, wherein the inheritance information of an entity is stored in the same target location as the entity itself.

24. (original): The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of assigning an identifier to each entity.

25. (original): The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of storing each attribute of an entity with the identifier of that entity in the attribute target location.

26. (original): The method of claim 17, wherein the attribute information of an entity is stored in the same target location as the entity itself.

27. (original): The method of claim 16, wherein the inheritance information further comprises one or more of a parent entity identifier, a child entity identifier, a sibling identifier, and an auxiliary index class row identifier.

28. (previously presented): The method of claim 16, wherein the data object further comprises an outline defining the order and structure of its entities.

29. (original): The method of claim 16, wherein the relationship information further comprises container labels.

30. (previously presented): The method of claim 28, wherein the relationship information further comprises the degree of indentation of an entity in the outline, all entities of a same hierarchical level having a same degree of indentation.

31. (currently amended): A system for configurably loading a data object comprising a plurality of hierarchically related entities and information specifying the hierarchical relationship of the entities, comprising:

~~Means~~means for defining, for entities at each level of the hierarchy, a target location in a data repository for storing entities of that level and a target location for storing inheritance information for entities of that level;

input means for receiving the hierarchically related entities and the information specifying their hierarchical relationship;

~~Means~~means for determining the hierarchical level of each entity received from the information, and generating inheritance information for that entity; and

~~Means~~means for storing the entity and its inheritance information in their respective, target locations.

32. (currently amended): The system of claim 31, wherein ones of the entities have attributes, each attribute having a value and a first name, further comprising:

~~Means~~means for defining, for each hierarchical level, a target location for storing attributes associated with each entity of that level, and means for defining a second name in the target location for each first attribute name;

~~Input~~input means for receiving the hierarchically related entities and their associated attributes;

~~Means~~means for mapping the first name of each attribute received for an entity to the second name of the attribute; and

~~Means~~means for storing the attribute in its target location under its second name.

33. (original): The system of claim 31, wherein the target locations for entities of each hierarchical level further comprise one of an index class, an auxiliary index class, a table, and a part.

34. (original): The system of claim 31, wherein the target location for inheritance information further comprises one of an index class, an auxiliary index class, a table and a part.

35. (original): The system of claim 32, wherein the target location for an attribute further comprises one of an index class, an auxiliary index class, a table and a part.

36. (original): The system of claim 31, further comprising means for assigning an identifier to each entity.

37. (original): The system of claim 36, further comprising means for storing the inheritance information of each entity with the identifier of that entity in its target location.

38. (original): The system of claim 31, wherein the inheritance information of an entity is stored in the same target location as the entity itself.

39. (original): The system of claim 32, further comprising means for assigning an identifier to each entity.

40. (original): The system of claim 39, further comprising means for storing each attribute of an entity with the identifier of that entity in the attribute target location.

41. (original): The system of claim 32, wherein the attribute information of an entity is stored in the same target location as the entity itself.

42. (original): The system of claim 31, wherein the inheritance information further comprises one or more of a parent entity identifier, a child entity identifier, a sibling identifier, and an auxiliary index class row identifier.

43. (previously presented): The system of claim 31, wherein the data object further comprises an outline defining the order and structure of its entities.

44. (original): The system of claim 31, wherein the relationship information further comprises container labels.

45. (original): The system of claim 43, wherein the relationship information further comprises the degree of indentation of an entity in the outline, all entities of a same hierarchical level having a same degree of indentation.